

measures to prevent the proliferation of invasive species in our nation's waterways and surface water infrastructure like reservoirs.

Specifically, our bipartisan bill targets the inadvertent introduction by recreational boating of invasive species from one federal reservoir to another. I thank former Congressman Ben McAdams (D-UT) for sponsoring this bill last Congress, which I have now taken over and improved. I also want to thank the following organizations for endorsing our bill: Western Governors' Association, National Wildlife Federation, National Marine Manufacturers Association, American Sportfishing Association, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, and Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Invasive species not only crowd out native wildlife but also cause billions of dollars in avoidable damage to our nation's critical water infrastructure, particularly in western states like California. In the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta, I have seen the damage caused by invasive water hyacinth so dense you can literally walk on water. Proliferate quagga and zebra mussels clog water pipelines, reduce the capacity of canals, and damage dam operations for hydropower, water storage, and flood control. In 2007, California's Department of Water Resources detected invasive quagga mussels in the State Water Project and the Colorado River Aqueduct, which supply water for communities in southern California. All it takes for these mussels to invade a new lake or waterway is a cup of contaminated water containing their microscopic larvae carried inadvertently by a motorboat or recreational watercraft that has not been decontaminated properly.

The best defense against spreading invasive aquatic species is simple: inspection and dry-docking or similarly effective treatment of contaminated watercraft for a few days until they are no longer a threat. Mandatory inspections by state wildlife agencies have proven effective at keeping these invasive mussels out of Lake Tahoe, one of the most popular recreational areas in the American West. Under current law, federal agencies lack a similar inspection authority to state wildlife agencies, which cannot conduct inspections on federal land such as National Parks and National Forests.

Our bipartisan "Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act" would ensure that federal land management agencies like the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Forest Service have the authority to conduct these inspections. In addition, our bill would establish a new U.S. Bureau of Reclamation grant program for inspection stations at federally managed reservoirs.

Madam Speaker, Congress can help to limit the spread of aquatic invasive species, protect our native wildlife, and reduce the need for more expensive remediation efforts. I urge all Members of the House to join us in cosponsoring the "Stop the Spread of Invasive Mussels Act."

CELEBRATING TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 22, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Texas Southmost College (TSC) as they celebrate their 95th anniversary, making it the oldest institution of higher learning in the Rio Grande Valley.

Texas Southmost College is the first accredited community college in the State of Texas. Originally named The Junior College of the Rio Grande Valley, TSC was established on August 9, 1926, with 84 students attending classes. In 1931 it was renamed the Brownsville Junior College, before its final renaming to Texas Southmost College in 1949. After a 20-year partnership with University of Texas at Brownsville, TSC's Board of Trustees voted to reestablish the college as an independent institution in 2011 and it was operating independently by 2013. The campus, spanning over 48 acres, is located in Brownsville, Texas on the historic site of Fort Brown, the first United States military post in Texas.

TSC was selected as a "Bright Spot" by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics in 2015 for its efforts to bridge the achievement gap and expand access to quality higher education. In addition to offering high-quality programs that lead to careers that are in demand, TSC is the most affordable institution of higher learning in the Rio Grande Valley, thanks to TSC's Board of Trustees decision in 2013 to reduce tuition by 40 percent. TSC currently offers two-year academic credential progression in over 50 programs of study for students pursuing bachelor's degrees, and career and technical education leading to industry certifications and associate degrees. They also offer dual-credit academic, career, and technical courses at no cost to students, saving families in the Lower Grande Valley \$28 million in tuition and related fees since 2017.

With a growth rate of 72 percent in the past four years, TSC is the fastest-growing community college in the state of Texas, and their graduation rate outpaces the Texas state average by more than three percent. The Board of Trustees, along with TSC President Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, Ph.D., continue to set goals to ensure the long-term viability of the institution with a focus on fostering student success, leading regional workforce development, enriching student experiences, enhancing community connections, and investing in each other.

Texas Southmost College prides itself on fostering a welcoming environment and a sense of belonging for all. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating TSC on 95 years of invaluable service to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Through education, community outreach and the promotion of individual success, Texas Southmost College continues to strengthen the state of Texas' prosperity and talent.

HONORING STEVE KLINSKY'S LEADERSHIP

HON. LEE M. ZELDIN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 22, 2021

Mr. ZELDIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Steve Klinsky for his commitment to our Nation's prosperity and the education of our youth. Steve has served as Chairman of the Board of the American Investment Council for four years. Upon the conclusion of his term of leadership of the Council, we recognize Steve for his service, his philanthropy to his community, and his tremendous commitment to education reform.

Steve founded New Mountain Capital in 1999 and continues to lead the organization to help build better businesses, create jobs, and strengthen pensions. In fact, New Mountain's responsible management strategy has led to the creation of over 49,500 jobs.

Additionally, for nearly 30 years, Mr. Klinsky has served children in New York City and beyond by supporting afterschool programs and advocating for charter schools. Most notably, he founded the "Modern States" program which makes college educations accessible and free. Mr. Klinsky's understanding of the importance of education to achieve the American Dream fuels his commitment to ensuring enrollment in Modern States' courses are open to all people without regard to age, location, family income, nationality, prior education or other barriers. Thanks to Mr. Klinsky's passion for access to a college education, Modern States has helped more than 280,000 students take free courses and work toward college degrees.

Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Steve Klinsky for his leadership.

RECOGNIZING MRS. CAROL CHANDLER

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 22, 2021

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mrs. Carol Chandler for her contributions to the agricultural community.

Carol Chandler was called to give back to her community from an early age. After receiving degrees from the University of California at Davis and California State University at Fresno, she began teaching in the Central Valley, including at Fresno City College. She continued her passion for agriculture and community as a partner of Chandler Farms, a fourth-generation family farming operation in Selma, California.

Chandler has continued her philanthropic work throughout her life. She belongs to the La Feliz Guild of Valley Children's Hospital and received the Tapestry Award by Common Threads for her outstanding achievements in agriculture.

Chandler has earned several awards and recognitions during her career. She was named Woman of the Year by the California State Legislature in 1992 and 2002, Agriculturist of the Year by the Fresno Chamber of Commerce in 2004, and Agriculturist of the